WHIRRAKEE

September 2008 **Vol. 29 No. 8**

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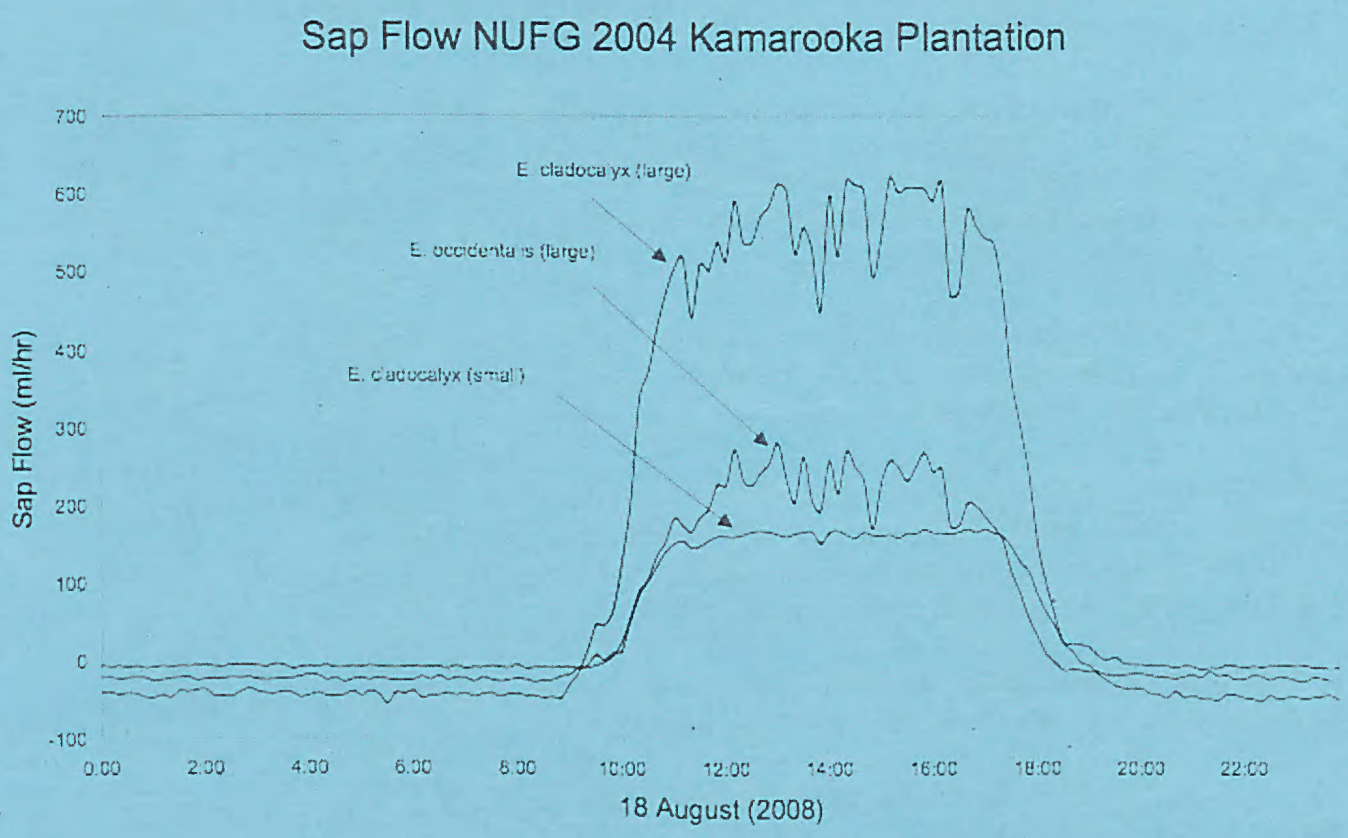

Page 1

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2007 - 2008

President	Glenise Moors	Mandurang South Road, Sedgwick	54396254
Senior Vice President	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Junior Vice President	Matthew Comer		0409 162627
Secretary	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Minute Secretary	Peter Ellis and Jan Orr		
Treasurer	Rob Moors		
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Excursion organiser	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
	(an assistant's position for the syllabus organiser is still vacant)		
Librarian (t.b.c.)	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer		0409 162 627
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Bill Holsworth and Kath Thompson)		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Rod Orr, Jan Orr, Peter Ellis, Ben Goonan, Anthony Sheean, Stuart Fraser, Liz Graham

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 29, No. 8, September 2008

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Short notices		3
Golden-backed Honeyeaters in Bendigo?	Clive Fisher	4
August General Meeting Speaker: Phil Dyson 'Talking to the Trees'	Sabine Wilkens	4
Indian Mynahs 1 and 2	Brenda Cheers	6
Speaker Syllabus for the remainder of 2008	Rod Orr	10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgement should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
At the last club meeting, Vanessa Richardson spoke about her attempts to halt or reduce burning in the Greater Bendigo National Park. In fact, some time ago, Vanessa submitted, to the Whirrakee, a long letter she sent to Jacinta Allen (after discussing the matter with her), but it was so long, it never fitted in. Her sentiment, when speaking to the Club, was also supported by Richard Hughes from the Wilderness Society. Vanessa is keen to form a small group of interested and informed people. In response, some members of the audience indicated a kind of resignation with regards to this matter, but Vanessa believes that fighting this will eventually pay off. If anybody is interested in contacting Vanessa, please e-mail me, and I will get you in touch.
Well, it is September again, and another club year begins. The Annual General Meeting is held every September and a new committee enters the scene. Why not be part of it? It is not too late to nominate or be nominated for a position. Lastly, for the avid followers of Darren Green's reptile story, we are having a break this month, but will resume with the 'Snakes of Bendigo' in October.

Front Page Illustration – Producer: Phil Dyson
'Talking to the trees' was the title of Phil Dyson's talk to the Club in August, although it is probably more a matter of the trees talking to us. With the help of some electronic gadgetry and computer technology, Phil can find out what some of the amazing trees at Kamarooka are doing every minute of the day. The graph on the front cover shows water movement through three different trees over a 24 hour period. Read on page 6 how this is done and why this is so amazing.

Short notices

There will be a garden working bee
on Saturday 6th September
at 9am
to carry out weeding and
general maintenance.
All very welcome

North Central CMA 2008/2009
Second Generation Landcare Grants
Applications close Friday 17 October
Anne Bridley has or copy of the guidelines or contact Clare Millen at NCCMA on 5440 1870 or at www.nccma.vic.gov.au

DSE Open Day, 17 Sep at Epsom
Half hour information sessions on reserve improvement programs, indigenous experience, water strategies, wildlife crime, threatened orchids, fire and forestry will be held.
To register contact Caitlan Johnson on 5430 4538 or email dse.openday@dse.vic.gov.au by 10 Sep.

Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests
(Mount Alexander region) **Bushwalks 2008**
All walks are on Sundays. Meet 9.30 am outside 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine (Continuing Ed.) and carpool to the start of the walk. Take water, morning tea and lunch. Non-members welcome. No cost. (Walks are cancelled on Total Fire Ban days). For more information ring Bronwyn Silver on5475 1089

21 September Maldon Railway Line
Walk through a range of ecosystems and past the old prison farm/asylum site. Emphasis on native birds and early spring plants. Bring binoculars. c. 5 km. For more information ring Chris Morris 9885 4221.

News from WRIN

More rescuers and telephone operators are needed for the Wildlife Rescue & Information Network
After 11 years of operation, WRIN has found that its workload has increased to the point that more rescuers and telephone operators are needed.
Training will be provided by experienced WRIN members and any time that can be given will be most appreciated.
If you feel that you can help, the Rescue phone no is 0419 356433
or email secretary@wrin.asn.au

Information session for Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation course
Greg Gordon who is the coordinator for the above course at Victoria University will run a session at the club rooms. WRIN members and any other interested people are invited to attend. We will possibly do a bit on faecal floats (all carers love doing things on poo, it is generally the main topic of our conversation).
Greg will also cover common parasites in some of the wildlife we care for and will more than likely do something else as well. For anyone who may be interested in the university course, it would be a good opportunity to meet Greg and ask questions.

Raptor Talk at next WRIN meeting
At the next WRIN meeting (first Saturday in October), Martin Scuffins is talking about raptors (mostly birds in care). Anyone interested in welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 1pm, but the talk may be before or after the actual meeting.

Non-WRIN members are asked to contribute $5 towards Martin's expenses, but BFNC members can attend at no charge.

Contact for more information on both the above meetings: Ring 54612970.

Golden-backed Honeyeaters in Bendigo?

By Clive Fisher

Yesterday I saw three birds on a dead tree next door, which I observed for several minutes through binoculars. From my two bird books I could only say there were golden-backed honeyeaters, because they had green over the eye and not blue, so they were not black-headed, and they were not black-chinned, because they did not have a black chin. Also, they did not have blue faces like a blue-faced honeyeater.
I realise that golden-backed honeyeaters are not supposed to travel south of the Queensland-N.S.W. border, but it looks like they have.

Dear Enviro Enthusiasts…
A call has been issued for a whole week of emergency climate protests. The week will begin with the spring equinox, which will be used to highlight the summer melt of Artic ice along with other worrying signs of climate change.
Focus issues are suggested to be;

- No new coal
- Massive public spending on renewable energy;
- More public transport not new freeways; and
- End logging of old growth forests.

This call for week long protests was issued by the organising committee for the July 5 Climate Emergency Rally in Melbourne.

I am seeking the interest of anyone who would like to be involved in an organising committee. The committee will be responsible for organising local events in Bendigo to coincide with week long Actions. These Actions will be taking place across the country beginning in the week of 21st September.

If you are interested or know someone who might be e-mail Amanda on: gypse_e05@yahoo.com.au to register your interest and also please include in your e-mail two suitable days and times to meet so a suitable meeting time can be organized.

Yours Sincerely Amanda Mann

Ringwood Field Naturalists Club
SEANA campout Badgers Ck Healesville
Oct 15-17 2008
Program - possible excursions to Murrundidi, Mt St Leonard, Badger Weir, Black Spur, Fernshaw, Cement Creek, Mt Donna Buang
Speaker at dinner Saturday 18 - Roger Elliot, author and botanist
Cost: $65
Accommodation: Participants responsible for own accommodation.
Registration due by August 31.
Contact: Peter Rogers 98016946 (president) or Ray Wall (treasurer) 98011037 email Ringwoodfnc@hotmail.com

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Talking to the Trees

By Phil Dyson
aka 'Minister for Hydrogeology'

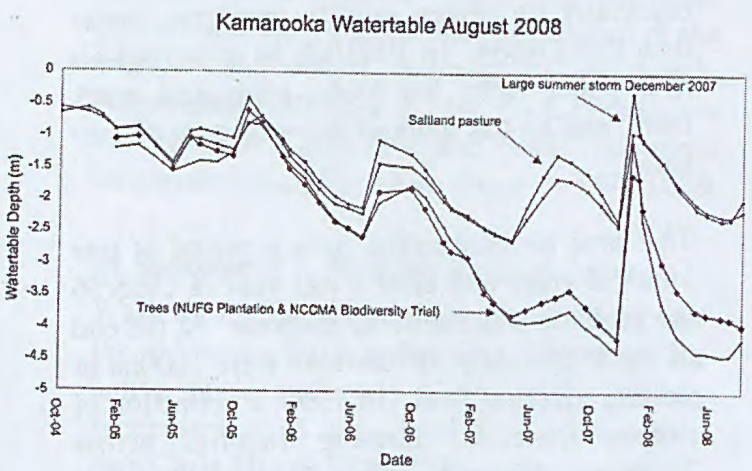
Hardly anybody knows the Kamarooka area, especially its severe salinity problems, better than Phil Dyson. In 1983/84, he published his first paper from his hydro-geological work there, and he has worked there on and off ever since.

This area became saline over a period of one hundred years and after a wet year in 1955/56 the problem was suddenly obvious. At the end of the 1960s/early 1970s there were 1000ha of salinity-affected land. In 1998, a collection of people from 50 farming families across Northern Victoria (the Northern United Forestry Group), asked Phil for help. Their (seemingly rather ambitious) goal was to FIX

the salinity problem and for this they applied for federal funding. NUFG is an extremely dynamic group of people, not only did they obtain this funding in 2003, but they also won a National Landcare Research Award in 2004. The funding was for the restoration of productivity and ecological integrity of this country... a big (t)ask.

Since the initial contact with NUFG, Phil has been heavily involved with this group, actually it is not just 'involvement', but more like an addiction or obsession. It started with the mapping of the whole area for salinity. Then, an area of 40ha was chosen for planting out which contained some very old Box trees and some other remnant vegetation, but appeared otherwise more or less dead. The species chosen were:
Sugar Gum, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*
Flat-topped Yate, *Eucalyptus occidentalis*
Acacia stenophylla and *Acacia pendula.*
Also included in the planting were Old Man Saltbush, Wallaby Grasses as well a 'biodiversity planting' with indigenous species.

In 2004 when planting was begun, the water table was only about 0.5 - 1m below the surface and its salinity was 1/2 to 2/3 that of seawater (15000 – 30000 mg salt/L). Since the beginning of the drought, the water table has dropped from this high level, but the graph below shows the added difference made by the trees:

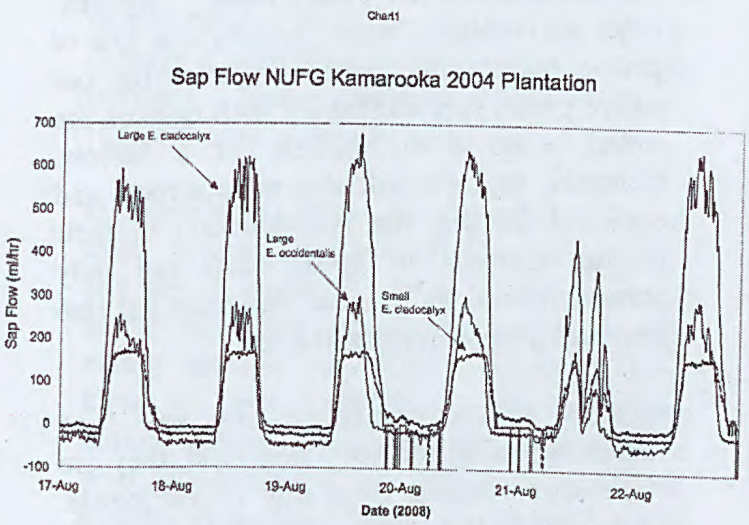


The top two lines depict the water table beneath the low growing saltland pasture, while the bottom two lines represent the water table underneath the planted trees. For over a year now, the trees have caused a much more effective lowering of the water table. The large spike on the right of the graph is due to the massive rainfall that centered on Kamarooka on the 21 December last year, which dumped 132mm of rain in 24 hours. As a result of this rain event, the water tables rose to the 2004 levels within one day, but waterlogging in the ground only lasted one week. Because it was summer, the trees transpired a lot of water and much water also evaporated from the ground, so after a couple of months, water tables had returned to the pre-rain event levels.

It is clear that the trees are using large amounts of water of very high salinity. Most plant physiologists and a quick look at the literature would predict that this cannot happen, as trees cannot easily extract fresh water out of soil with such high salinity – yet they seem to do so - and with great enthusiasm.
Phil has sent off these extraordinary results to various experts around Australia and it has caused the science, that explains how trees get their water, to be re-examined. However, how could he be sure that it really was the trees that were actually using the water and causing a lowering of the water table? So, the next logical step in this story was the attempt to prove that the trees were indeed taking up the water.

For this, an instrument was purchased that possesses three probes which are run into the sapwood (the outer part) of a tree. One of the probes emits a heat pulse, which travels in the xylem vessels, (the water conducting tubes) of the trunk. The time delay after which the other probes sense the heat pulse tells us something about the speed of water transport. Then, knowing the diameter of the vessels and their extent in the trunk, these measurements can be converted to the rate water travels up the stem.

The graph on the front page shows the water use of three trees over a period of 24 hours, while the graph below shows water use of the same three trees over a period of six days. The pattern is similar each day. After sunrise, the stomata (pores) in the leaves open and transpiration begins. Water molecules are pulled from the leaf surface by the dry atmosphere and the column of water is pulled up and up, while the stomata are open. At dusk, stomata close and water movement stops. Water use differs by the three trees as shown by the height of the curves.



The large sugar gum (*E. cladocalyx*) uses the most water (up to 650mL/hour), while the smaller one uses less than one third of this amount per hour. The Flat-topped Yate also uses less water than the large sugar gum. Plant water use by transpiration is closely related to the relative leaf area exposed to the atmosphere, into which evaporation can take place. However, it also depends on the size and spacing of stomata, which differs in different species.

What happened on the 21st August? Either, stomata may have been partially closed due to hot weather (unlikely) or due to some other reason, like clouds in the sky. Alternatively, less water evaporated because it was a humid or a rainy day (more likely), because if the atmosphere is not drier than the inside of the leaf, water molecules are not pulled out of the leaf and transpiration stops or slows down.

The more questions you answer, the more arise...Phil now wanted to know how much the trees were actually growing. For this a gadget was constructed that could be placed permanently around the trees and which measured any expansion in girth. So far, it has been found, that one of the sugar gums has grown 14-15mm in diameter this year.

The trees at Kamarooka are clearly thriving in this apparently hostile environment. How? One possible answer is that they can grow because they are not suffering from water-logging. It is quite possible that most of the documented cases of trees suffering from soil salinity happened in water-logged conditions. This is certainly something that needs following up.

Phil has made other gadgets to enable NUFG enthusiasts to measure what they want to know. Through his activities in the group, he has not only earned the nickname 'Minister for Hydrogeology' but also 'Inspector Gadget' for his willingness and ability to construct instruments like a complex rainfall recorder and an evaporation meter at budget prices.

Phil has made this project an integral part of his life. He has hooked up the instruments that listen to the trees to his home computer, and he told us that he gets up in the morning, turns on his computer and checks on the trees after brushing his teeth!
I found Phil's enthusiasm infectious and so did many other members, judging by the buzz in the audience afterwards. It was a cold night for going out, but was well worth it!

If anybody wants to know more about NUFG and their activities, www.nufg.org.au is their website. Some members have been to their annual field day and reported what a fantastic experience it was. The documents of this day (including a presentation by Phil similar to the above, but with images illustrating his message) can be found under the link '2008 Kamarooka Field Day presentations'. Anyway, look out for an advertisement in the *Whirrakee* about the next one.

Two pieces on Indian Myna(h)s

By Brenda Cheers

Editor's note:
Brenda submitted these two pieces, which she has written for a local community paper this year. Although they contain some overlapping information, it is interesting to read them as an unfolding of the story. The first piece was written in May 2008, the second more recently. In Brenda's accompanying note, she wrote that she was amazed that the first piece began with Garry seeing 8 birds, because they are regularly seeing 30 now and hear them calling all day. Garry is planning on checking the mentioned website to get plans for a trap.

N.B. from what I can gather the bird's name can be spelt either Myna or Mynah, but I am happy to be corrected on this.

May 2008

Garry recently saw eight Common Mynah's flying over our place, and one day last week, I saw two perching on the power wire for a brief time before flying off. These birds are becoming a very real concern in the area, they are the worst of the feral species.

Common Mynahs are natives of India and Southern China, they were released in Melbourne in 1862 and have very slowly spread throughout southern Victoria where they are a common sight in built up areas and often seen feeding along roadsides.

Almost 20 years ago while using the Calder Highway to get to Melbourne, I would always see these birds feeding along the roadside from about Malmsbury down to Melbourne. They were always particularly common throughout the Black Forest.

They were reported in the Bendigo area around 1988. Over several years, they spread from the Bendigo area and were sighted in the Lockwood, Serpentine and the Colbinabbin areas by 1996. Slowly they made their way towards Maryborough with two unconfirmed but definite sounding reports during that year (from our daughter who was very familiar with the species as they were one of the most common species in Boronia, where we lived). Reports of a pair at Joyces Creek in 1993 and Newstead in the same year, were also received. The Joyces Creek birds began breeding and moved cross the Moolort Plain indicating they would be heading towards Maryborough on two fronts.

Common Mynahs are very aggressive birds that will evict nesting parrots from their hollows and kill the young inside. Mynahs' nests are made of straw, grasses and bits of plastic that render hollows useless for our native parrot species that lay their eggs on the rotted wood t the bottom of a hollow. Common Mynahs will also nest in roofs and eaves of houses, the accumulation of their nesting material in house roofs not only attracts vermin such as rats and mice but also becomes a very real fire hazard.

Mynahs are scavengers, eating any food scraps including left-over dog food, they are often seen feeding form dog or cat bowls. They have the very annoying habit of scattering rubbish from un-lidded rubbish bins, pulling out anything and everything until they find food.

These birds are easy to identify, being about 25cm long with a solid chunky appearance. The body and wings are a cocoa-brown colour, the head and throat are black, the wings have a white patch on the edge and white patches visible when in flight; the bill and legs are yellow and there is a yellow skin patch behind the eye.

It is extremely difficult to eradicate or even control pest species such as this bird so every effort should be made to dispose of them, before their numbers become too large and in areas where disposal is more possible. This is probably not as easy as it sounds, as these birds are very wary, somehow sensing danger. Erecting artificial hollows for them to nest in, then trapping the birds while they are in the hollow is one way of catching them.

With the lack of hollows in this area, our native species already have enough to contend with, competition with feral bees and other vermin species, the starling, just to name two. It is vital that every effort is made to stop Common Mynahs becoming established locally.

And more recently...

I have just returned from the sixth annual wildlife rehabilitation conference, this one held in Canberra. One of the presentations was on the introduced Indian Mynah, now mostly referred to as the Common Mynah, the damage it is causing in that area and what the common Indian Mynah Action Group [CIMAG] are doing about it.

Indian Mynahs were released in Canberra in 1968 somewhere around 100 years after arriving in Australia. They are now spread across all suburbs of Canberra and in urban nature reserves and have become a great threat to native wildlife – particularly the hollow nesting birds and small mammals as well as endangered and vulnerable endemic insects. Also their habit of occupying and fouling backyards, shopping centres and school yards means that the general community sees them as a major nuisance, their domineering nature which results in driving small native birds out of domestic gardens is loathed.

There are three main elements in the strategy being used to tackle the problem of the mynahs.

1. raising public awareness that Indian mynahs are a serious environmental threat and a potential human health risk, not simply a backyard nuisance.

2. informing the community/business and government agencies on how to reduce mynahs' feeding, breeding and roosting opportunities – thereby reducing their numbers and spread.

3. humane trapping methods.

CIMAG has 480 members most are involved in the trapping programme. Mass participation in trapping requires traps being easy to operate and people having simple, cheap, practical, quick and humane method of disposing of trapped birds. Using small, effective, easy to build and manage traps, some 17,500 mynahs have been removed from the Canberra area by CIMAG members. Where backyard trapping has been intense, mynahs are occasionally seen and members report small native birds have returned to gardens and rosellas are back in backyard nesting boxes and tree hollows. The change has been quire profound.

As an indication of the success in controlling the spread and in reducing mynah numbers, and therefore their threat, the Canberra Ornithologist Group Garden Bird Survey showed for the first time in its 25 year history, that mynah numbers actually dropped across Canberra in 2007.

Other important aspects of CIMAG's approach have been the establishment of good networks with the ACT government, local government agencies, RSPCA, academics and researchers at the Australian National University and the Co-operative Research centre for Invasive Animals as well as conservation and community groups.

Community action needs to operate on a sound scientific basis and in conjunction with animal welfare bodies. A collaborative arrangement with RSPCA is seen as extremely important in gaining public respectability and acceptance of CIMAG's objective and its programme. CIMAG and RSPCA have developed a 'Protocol of Animal Welfare' and is signed by all CIMAG trappers to ensure they are aware of their obligations and responsibility to manage the mynahs humanely and in accordance with sound animal welfare practices.

The presentation by the president of CIMAG was very interesting, probably more so to me as there are now mynahs all around us here at home. We see them along the roadsides when

travelling to and through Dunolly, to Bendigo, Castlemaine and to Ballarat. This year we will have to be very vigilant when the parrots take up residence in the hollows we have around us, the mynahs are vicious when it comes to taking over a suitable hollow, they will kill any nestling already in the hollow, they are also know n to build their nest on top of live nestlings.

We need to do whatever we can to eradicate this devastating pest species from the area and to ensure that do not have a chance to build up in numbers. For information, check www.indianmynaaction.org.au . I am told that there is the plan for a mynah trap on the website, as yet I have been unable to access the site

(N.B. I have accessed the site and the plans for traps are on the left side of the page, ed.).

A few interesting facts on our most hated pest species:

- the Indian Mynah is classed as one of the 100 most invasive species in the WORLD
- Their native home is tropical southern Asia from Iran to India and Sri Lanka
- They were brought into Melbourne in the 1860s to eat insects in the cane fields in the market gardens. This failed!
- They were then taken to Queensland to eat insects in the cane fields. This also failed!
- In recent times, they have arrived in Darwin, Perth and Tasmania.
- They have been reported in Adelaide.
- Not only do Indian Mynahs take over nesting hollows from native birds, they kill nestlings and destroy eggs
- Indian Mynahs are considered the most hated pest in Australia beating cane toads, feral cats (ABC Wild Watch Quest for Pests 2005).
- They pose major threats to many bird/mammal species, e.g the nationally endangered Superb Parrot, the threatened Brown Treecreeper, Glossy Black Cockatoo, parrot species, lorikeets, kookaburras, sugar gliders and possums to name just a few, also the Golden Sun Moth as well as endangered or threatened invertebrate species e.g. native grasshoppers and crickets.
- Indian Mynahs are noisy, territorial and not afraid of humans; in large numbers, they aggressively take over and defend a territory, evicting mammals or birds already in hollows by harassing them until they leave. Not only do they kill nestlings or build their own nests on top of them, but they will also block entry to hollows, ensuring the inhabitants die of starvation; they then lay their own eggs in the hollow.
  Although they only lay eggs in one nest, they will defend several hollows during the breeding season, thus excluding native species from nesting sites. They usually raise two broods each year.
- They pose a potential health risk to humans, from bird mites and faeces dust; this is due to the close association with human activity, e.g. scavenging around outdoor cafes and other eating places, and on patios.
- As well as using hollows, they will also nest in roof spaces and cavities, their nests are large and untidy, they use sticks, straw, feathers and other rubbish such as paper and plastic to construct the nest. As well as the fire risk, the nest become san entry point allowing bird mites into the house.
- There is evidence that their aggressive nature – chasing native birds from an area – results in loss of tree health and vigor, as the insect-gleaning native birds are no longer able to reduce the insect numbers on trees. Yellow Box and Red Gum grassy woodlands as well as other areas may be at risk.

...and another editor's note: At the risk of being shot down, I can't help feeling some admiration for these birds. They have not evolved on this continent, yet have made a success in such a very short time. I also feel some unease about the use of the word 'hate', not Brenda's word, I know, but often used in the context of pests. It is a very strong word/emotion, for a problem, which we have caused ourselves.

Why not write in if you have an opinion on this matter...

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club
Speakers and topics for General Meetings for the remainder of 2008

Month/date/time		Speaker and topic
September,10	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting. President Glenise Moors will speak about a topic of her choice.
October, 8	7.30pm	Paul Foley: 'Our first 50 years in space – some discoveries and achievements'
November,12	7.30pm	Jim Radford: 'Woodland birds and their habitat requirements'
December, 10	6.30pm	Christmas break-up. Shared dinner. Peter Ellis 'Folk Music' (please note, earlier starting time)

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, September 10 7.30pm
AGM and President's address. Speaker: Glenise Moors (topic to be announced)

Wednesday, October 8 7.30pm
Paul Foley: 'Our first 50 years in space – some discoveries and achievements'

Excursions

Contact Richard Goonan if you have any comments, questions or ideas for excursions (ph 0423418815).

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, September 24 7.30pm
Topic for discussion to be determined.

Regular Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

BFNC Garden Working Bee
Saturday 6th September
Starting time 9am
Everybody is welcome

Field Naturalist Club of Victoria
FNCV Biodiversity Symposium 2008

Sunday 14 September
Topic: Birds and the Urban Environment
contact: Mary Gibson 92517466 or e-mail maryg@deakin.edu.au

Wildflower & Art Show Anglesea

Sat 20 Sep 10 - 5 & Sun 21 Sep 08 10 - 4
Memorial Hall 5 McMillan St Anglesea
Bus trips & wildflower walks included in small entry fee.
Enquiries - 5263 1085, 5263 1277, 5263 3763

Friends of Kooyoora Inc Wildflower Show

The Friends of Kooyoora Inc Wildflower Show is planned for 20th/21st September 10am-4pm in the Rheola Hall, Kingower/Rheola Road.
Display of local wildflowers collected with DSE permit, plus static displays and photographs.
We always enjoy visits from Field Nats so would love to see some of your members.
Jill McFarlane

The FJC Rogers Seminar is hosted this year by the APS and SGAP Victoria in Horsham (Horsham College Assembly Hall). The topic this year is **Eremophilas**
Date: 4th and 5th October, registration starts at 9am. More information is at
http://www.apsvic.org.au/fjcrogers.html
or by phoning 03 5381 0081
This Seminar is for enthusiasts of Australian plants, and all gardeners who want to have an attractive garden with low water use.

For SEANA October campout details at Badgers Creek/Healsville, see page 4…